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The root is a fruitful one in Welsh. From meaning simply shrub, it came to be applied to bushy places, to wild places, to wild animals and the rude inhabitants of wild places, and to rudeness and savagery. In another direction it became applied to the worshippers of trees and shrubs, to the Druids, to the marks which distinguished the Druids from the common people, and thus it came to mean knowledge and science. *Heonllys* (Welsh) is from *llys*, "a plant," and *heon* a name under which the chief deity was worshipped by the Welsh bards. *Uchelawg* means "a lofty thing," *uchelfa* "a high place," *uchellawr* "the most exalted," *uchellawg* "having a lofty site," *uchelwydd*, *ycheluydh* "the lofty shrub," or "the branch of excellent virtues." All these are Welsh names for the plant. We find also *uchelfar*, *uchelfal*, *uchelfel*, *uchelvar*, *ychelvar*, Welsh; and *huel-varr*, *uchel-varr*, *ihuel-varr*, *inhuel-varr*, Breton; meaning (according to the Welsh etymologists) "lofty summit." Corresponding with these in idea is the Walloon name *hautèdame*, from *hautè*, "high," and *dame*, of unknown meaning. *Prenawyr* and *awyrbren*, Welsh names, mean the "ethereal tree." *Holliach*, or *ol-hiach*, Welsh; *uile-iceadh*, or *uile-iceach*, Erse; *uile-ic*, *uileicc*, *uile-icc*, and *uil-ioc*, Gaelic; and *ollyiach*, Breton, are names for this plant. The the last means also a nostrum or panacea. The first means, when an adjective, "perfectly well in health." All are compounded of two words, *uile*, "all," "the whole," and *ioc*, "medicine," "healing," "rent," or "payment." Pliny records the fact that the Druids called the mistleto by a name meaning in their language "all-healing." Some etymologists say that mistleto itself is derived from *meist heil tan*, the "most healing twig." *Heil aller schäden*, "heal all wounds," is a German title of the plant; and a MS. list by Robert Brown (preserved in the botanical department of the British Museum) records the name "all heal" as a Scotch name.

Besides these we have the Welsh *glyd* and *ysglouring*, of doubtful authenticity.

One of the Danish names is *vintergrönt*. There is a similar name for the parasite in Swedish, and their meaning is "wintergreen," from the evergreen character of the plant.—*Abstract of a paper by W. G. Piper.*

**Cones Wanted.**—Baron F. Thümen, of Görz, Austria, wishes specimens of cones of North American conifers. It makes no difference whether the cones are with or without seeds, but it is very necessary that they shall be accurately determined. The Baron offers in exchange copies of his Mycotheca Universalis or of his publications on forestry-mycology, or payment in money.

## Botanical Notes.

*Sisyrinchium.*—W. B. Hemsley points out the differences between the Bermudian *Sisyrinchium* and the Eastern North American plant, which latter he now refers to *S. angustifolium*, Miller, *S. Bermudiana*, L., not being native with us. Mr. Hemsley remarks as follows: "*S. Bermudiana* differs from *S. angustifolium* in being much larger in all its parts, and strikingly so in its broad leaves, which are equitant at the base."—*Journ. Bot.* xxii., 108.

*Carnivorous Plants.*—Although physiologists have universally accepted the facts originally proposed by Darwin as correct, yet there has been a disposition in some quarters, if not to question the fact, at least to doubt its utility. Mr. Francis Darwin undertook some experiments to satisfy the latter point, and now we have to record the results of some experiments made by M. Busgen. This gentleman commenced his experiments with seedling Droseras, and ascertained that the digestion of nitrogenous matter begins with the appearance of the first leaf. The experiments were continued for two years, with the result that those plants "fed" with nitrogenous diet in the shape of aphides and small insects were the more vigorous. Fourteen plants so treated produced seventeen flower-stalks and ninety seed-pods, while sixteen plants not so treated produced only nine flower-stalks and twenty seed-pods. More conclusive still were the results of analysis, which (we cite from the *Annales Agronomiques* 1884, p. 238) showed for the first set a total weight of dry matter (remaining after the expulsion of water by heat) of 0.352, while the unfed plants yielded only 0.119 parts of a gramme (= 15 grains).—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

*Timber in Texas.*—As an illustration of the extent of the timber trade in North America the following extract from a recent report from Texas will be of interest: Notwithstanding the fact that the greater proportion of the State consists of immense prairie, Texas possesses the largest area of woodlands of any State in the Union. The timbered country is situated in Eastern Texas; and, according to the Forestry Report, in 1880 there were 63,000,000,000 feet of standing pine, worth, on the average at the mills if sawed up into planks, 12 dollars per 1,000 feet. Besides pine there are large quantities of cypress timber, both red and white, from which roofing shingles are made. At Beaumont these mills turn out 250,000 daily, and at Orange six shingle mills made during the year 1881 66,000,000 cypress shingles. Bois d'arc (*Maclura aurantiaca*) is very abundant in some counties, and for posts is unsurpassed, as it will last for years in the ground without rotting. It is also used for carriage and waggon spokes, and it is also coming into use for paving streets.

*Favorable Influence of Climate on Vegetation in Alaska.*—In some remarks before the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, upon glaciers in Alaska, Mr. Thomas Meehan observed that on the tops of what are known as "totem-poles" in some of the Indian villages, trees of very large size would often be seen growing. These poles are thick logs of hemlock or spruce, set up before the door of Indian lodges, carved all over with queer characters representing living creatures of every description, and which are supposed to be genealogies, or to tell of some famous event in the family history. They are not erected by Indians now, and it is difficult to get any connected accounts of what they really tell. At the old village of Kaigan there are numbers of poles erected, with no carving at all on them, among which many are wholly covered, and these all had one or more trees of *Abies Sitkensis* growing upon them. One tree must have been about twenty years old, and was half as tall as the pole on which it was growing. The pole may have been twenty feet high.

The roots had descended the whole length of the poles, and had gone into the ground, from which the larger trees now derived nourishment. In one case, the root had grown so large as to split the thick pole on one side from the bottom to the top, and this root projected, along the whole length to the ground, about two inches beyond the outer circumference of the pole. Only in an atmosphere surcharged with moisture could a seed sprout on the top of a pole, twenty feet from the ground, and continue for years to grow almost or quite as well as if it were in the ground.

At this village he also saw a bush of *Lonicera involucrata*, which was of immense size as compared with what he had seen in Colorado and other places. The plant was growing on a bank and rose some ten or twelve feet, when it bent over and rested on the roof of the lodge, its numerous branches making a dense arbor under which the road passed. The stems near the ground were, some of them, as thick as his arm, and the whole plant was covered with very large black berries. Subsequently another specimen was noted in the woods on a plant of the native hemlock, *Abies Mertensiana.* In the woods the plant is somewhat sarmentaceous. It could not climb a hemlock without assistance. This old hemlock was bereft of branches to a height of about twenty feet, but the *Lonicera* was above the lower branches, and had journeyed along them to the extremities, beyond which it was beautifully in fruit. It could have been there only by growing up with the hemlock when that tree was young, and was probably of about the same age.

*Butterflies as Botanists.*—The caterpillars of *Mechanitis*, *Dircenna*, *Ceratinia* and *Ithonia* feed on different species of Solanaceæ (*Solanum*, *Cyphomandra*, *Bassoria*, *Cestrum*), those of the allied genus *Thyridia* on *Brunfelsia.* Now this latter genus of plants had been placed unanimously among the Scrophularineæ, till quite recently it was transferred by Bentham and Hooker to the Solanaceæ. Thus it appears that butterflies had recognized the true affinity of *Brunfelsia* long before botanists did so. There is yet another and more curious instance of our butterflies confirming the arrangement of plants in Bentham and Hooker's Genera Plantarum. *Ageronia* and *Didonis* were formerly widely separated by lepidopterists, being even considered as constituting distinct families, but now they are to be found beside one another among the Nymphalinæ, and the structure of their caterpillars leaves no doubt about their close affinity. The caterpillars of *Ageronia* feed on *Dalechampia*, those of *Didonis* on *Tragia.* Now these two Euphorbiaceous genera were widely separated by Endlicher, who placed the former among the Euphorbiaceæ, and the latter among the Acalypheæ; Bentham and Hooker, on the contrary, place them close together in the same subtribe of Plukenetieæ, and thus their close affinity, which had been duly appeciated by butterflies, has finally been recognized by botanists also.—Fritz Müller, in *Nature.*

*Fish killed by Utricularia.*—Prof. Baird has recently received from Prof. H. N. Moseley, of England, a specimen of *Utricularia vulgaris*, L., holding in its embrace a number of young fish which it had caught. This plant has long been known to entrap the lower forms of animal life in its bladders, and to derive nourishment therefrom through absorption, but its fish-catching proclivities have only recently been noticed. Mr. G. E. Simms, of Oxford, England, was the first to call attention to the fact upon finding that a specimen of the plant which he had placed in an aquarium was actually entrapping large numbers of perches and roaches which had recently hatched from a mass of eggs lying at the bottom. These little fishes were usually caught by the head, but some were caught by the tail, and others were doubly trapped, the head being held fast in one trap and the tail in another. In order to learn something of its destructive powers, Mr. Simms placed 150 perch fry in a vessel containing specimens of *Utricularia*, and, at the end of two days, found that all but one or two had been entrapped.

**Proceedings of the Torrey Club.**—The regular meeting of the Club was held at Columbia College, Tuesday evening, May 13th. In the absence of the presiding officers, Mr. Braman occupied the chair.

Mr. Bicknell exhibited double-spurred specimens of *Viola canina*, var., *sylvestris*, and a white-flowered form of *Aquilegia Canadensis*, from Riverdale. Miss Knight showed specimen of *Aralia trifolia* with aborted flowers in the axils of extra leaves, from Hunt's Point.

Miss Steele exhibited *Sisymbrium alliaria* from Flatbush, L. I.

Mr. Hollick referred to the separation of sexes in *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, the male flowers always congregating in one group and the female in another, the two being seldom if ever united.

Mr. Bicknell read a communication upon the differences between *Carex Pennsylvanica* and *C. varia*, and some notes upon the time of flowering of other species.

On motion it was ordered that the local herbarium of the late Mr. Leggett be purchased.

Two corresponding members were elected, and four names were prepared for active membership.

The regular meeting of the Torrey Club was held Tuesday evening, June 10th, at Columbia College. In the absence of the officers Mr. Schrenk was called to the chair and Dr. Britton acted as Secretary; fifteen members were present. Four persons were elected active members, and one person a corresponding member.

The Chairman of the Herbarium Committee stated that the local plants of the Leggett herbarium had been secured for the Club's herbarium.

Mr. Bower exhibited many luxuriant fresh specimens of native plants from his Newark garden.

The following field excursions were reported:

*May 17th, Todt Hill, Staten Island.—Prunus Americana; Cerastium oblongifolium; Viola pedata; Clematis ochroleuca*— some of the plants having incised leaves; *Orchis spectabilis* and *Aphyllon uniflorum* were collected. The Chairman requested members to notice the parasitism of the last-named plant, saying that his recent observations had confirmed his former ones of its constant attachment to some species of golden-rod.